



Recently the National Weather Service office in Ruskin visited the United States Coast Guard Station in St. Petersburg. During the visit Senior Forecaster Mike Cantin received a tour of the site. This tour included a briefing on the various roles played by the US Coast Guard personnel in St. Petersburg and other smaller stations in southwest Florida from Florida's Big Bend to Ft. Myers. The highlight of the tour was a visit to the operations area of the base where critical decisions are made each day during rescue, recovery, vessel protection, and other non-routine scenarios.

During the visit to the operations area, Cantin learned that Coast Guard personnel utilize state of the art technologies, tide and wind data, and other information, to "forecast" the location of vessels in distress and adrift in the Gulf. This system was simulated during the visit and a great discussion ensued on how enhanced information could be contributed during events by the NWS staff in Ruskin. Plans were made to strengthen the partnership between the USCG and NWS office in Ruskin to provide even better service to mariners, and the men and women serving in the United States Coast Guard.